

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-95. (cancelled)

96. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structure;
applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent; and
~~The method of Claim 94, additionally including~~ applying heat from the dispenser to
the substance applied to the frame structure to solidify the substance on the frame structure.

97. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures;
applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent; and
~~The method of Claim 94, additionally including~~ coordinating the flow rate of the
substance out from the dispenser to prevent any significant overflow of the substance off of
the frame structure.

98. (cancelled)

99. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 94~~, wherein the dispenser comprises an ink-jet printhead or a microinjection syringe.

100. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 94~~, wherein the dispenser comprises a heat source to apply heat to the coating
substance.

101-103. (cancelled)

104. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 94~~, wherein the movement of the dispenser is controlled by a central processing unit.

105. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 94~~, wherein the movement of the dispenser is controlled by a central processing unit
and a feedback system to provide information about the pattern of the frame structure, a
characteristic of the frame structure, or the positioning of the dispenser relative to the frame
structure to the central processing unit.

106. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating

dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the path along which the coating dispenser is moved is a non-linear path.

107. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the dispenser is at an angle of less than 90 degrees to the surface of the frame structure.

108. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the dispenser is moved in intervals.

109-111. (cancelled)

112. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures;

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent; and
~~The method of Claim 110, additionally including~~ applying heat from the dispenser to the substance to solidify the substance on the frame structure.

113. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame

structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures;

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent; and

~~The method of Claim 110, additionally including~~ coordinating the flow rate of the substance out from the dispenser so as to prevent any significant overflow of the substance off of the frame structure.

114. (cancelled)

115. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the dispenser comprises an ink-jet printhead or a microinjection syringe.

116. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the dispenser comprises a heat source to apply heat to the coating substance.

117-120. (cancelled)

121. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the movement of the stent is controlled by a central processing unit.

122. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures; and
applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 110~~, wherein the movement of the stent is controlled by a central processing unit and a
feedback system to provide information about the pattern of the frame structure, a
characteristic of the frame structure, or the positioning of the stent relative to the dispenser to
the central processing unit.

123. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures; and
applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 110~~, wherein the path of the pattern of the frame structure is non-linear.

124. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures; and
applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 110~~, wherein the dispenser is at an angle of less than 90 degrees to the surface of the
frame structure.

125-126. (cancelled)

127. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures, The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance is applied to an outer

surface of the frame structure such that the method is configured to avoid application of the coating substance on a sidewall of the frame structure.

128. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures;

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent; and

~~The method of Claim 94, additionally comprising~~ causing the stent to be moved in concert with the dispenser so as to maintain the positioning of the dispenser along the path of the pattern of the frame structure and/or so as to maintain the dispenser next to or in contact with the stent.

129. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the dispenser is maintained in close proximity to or in contact with the stent for the application of the coating substance.

130. (cancelled)

131. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures. ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the coating substance is applied to an outer surface of the frame structure such that the method is configured to avoid application of the coating substance on a sidewall of the frame structure.

132. (cancelled)

133. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of Claim 110~~, wherein the dispenser is maintained in close proximity to or in contact with the stent for the application of the coating substance.

134. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures;

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent; and

~~The method of Claim 110, additionally comprising~~ causing the dispenser to be moved in concert with the stent so as to maintain the positioning of the dispenser along the path of the pattern of the frame structure and/or so as to maintain the dispenser next to or in contact with the stent.

135. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures, wherein the movement of the dispenser is controlled by a central processing unit and a feedback system to provide information about the pattern of the frame structure, a characteristic of the frame structure, or the positioning of the dispenser relative to the frame structure to the central processing unit; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 105~~, wherein the feedback system includes a video means for capturing a video image or a still frame image.

136. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a

space between the frame structures, wherein the movement of the stent is controlled by a central processing unit and a feedback system to provide information about the pattern of the frame structure, a characteristic of the frame structure, or the positioning of the stent relative to the dispenser to the central processing unit; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 122,~~ wherein the feedback system includes a video means for capturing a video image or a still frame image.

137. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the movement or operation of the dispenser is operated by a computer and means for providing information about the stent to the computer.

138. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the movement or operation of the dispenser is controlled by a computer and means for capturing an image or video images and converting the image(s) into data format.

139. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the dispenser is in communication with means for obtaining information about the stent and for converting the information into data.

140-141. (cancelled)

142. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the dispenser is in communication with a means for controlling the deposition patter of the coating substance out from the dispenser.

143. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the dispenser is in communication with a means for controlling the deposition pattern of the coating substance by controlling the motion of the dispenser.

144. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the movement of the stent is operated by a computer and means for providing information about the stent to the computer.

145. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:

causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the movement of the stent is controlled by a computer and means for capturing an image or video images and converting the image(s) into data format.

146. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the dispenser is in communication with means for obtaining information about the stent and for converting the information into data.

147. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the dispenser and the stent are in communication with a computer for controlling the operation of the coating deposition.

148. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures. ~~The method of Claim 94,~~ wherein the coating substance is applied exclusively to an outer surface of the frame structure.

149. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures. ~~The method of Claim 110,~~ wherein the coating substance is applied exclusively to an outer surface of the frame structure.

150. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of~~
~~Claim 94~~, wherein a width of the coating substance applied to an outer surface of the frame
structure is less than the width of the frame structure on which the coating substance is
applied.

151. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, ~~The method of~~
~~Claim 110~~, wherein a width of the coating substance applied to an outer surface of the frame
structure is less than the width of the frame structure on which the coating substance is
applied.

152. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures, ~~The method of Claim 94~~, wherein the coating substance is applied to an outer
surface of the frame structure and at least a segment of a side wall of the frame structure.

153. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures, ~~The method of Claim 110~~, wherein the coating substance
is applied to an outer surface of the frame structure and at least a segment of a side wall of the
frame structure.

154. (cancelled)

155. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance,
along a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating
dispenser avoids the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame
structures, The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance is applied on a coating
deposited on the surface of the frame structure.

156. (cancelled)

157. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the
application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame
structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a
space between the frame structures, The method of Claim 110, wherein the coating substance
is applied on a coating deposited on the surface of the frame structure.

158-167. (cancelled)

168. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising
causing a coating dispenser to move along a framework of a stent from a first position
to a second position by a means including operation of a computer for depositing a coating
material on the framework of the stent wherein the movement of the dispenser from the first
position to the second position is dictated by a pattern of the framework of the stent such that
the dispenser is moved along a pathway of the pattern of the framework between the first
position and the second position; and
applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
Claim 160, wherein the means additionally includes a dispenser motion control system in
communication with the computer.

169. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 168, wherein the means
additionally includes a dispenser driving component in communication with the dispenser
motion control system.

170. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising

causing a coating dispenser to move along a framework of a stent from a first position to a second position by a means including operation of a computer for depositing a coating material on the framework of the stent wherein the movement of the dispenser from the first position to the second position is dictated by a pattern of the framework of the stent such that the dispenser is moved along a pathway of the pattern of the framework between the first position and the second position; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 160,~~ wherein the means additionally includes a dispenser driving component in communication with the computer.

171. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising
causing a coating dispenser to move along a framework of a stent from a first position to a second position by a means including operation of a computer for depositing a coating material on the framework of the stent wherein the movement of the dispenser from the first position to the second position is dictated by a pattern of the framework of the stent such that the dispenser is moved along a pathway of the pattern of the framework between the first position and the second position; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 160,~~ wherein the means additionally includes a feedback system in communication with the computer.

172-179. (cancelled)

180. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising
causing a stent to move from a first position to a second position by a means including operation of a computer such that the positioning of a dispenser, for application of a coating substance, is maintained along a framework of the stent and when the stent is moved the dispenser stays within a pathway of a pattern of the framework between the first position and the second position; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent. ~~The method of Claim 172,~~ wherein the means additionally includes a stent motion control system in communication with the computer.

181. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 180, wherein the means additionally includes a stent driving component in communication with the stent motion control system.

182. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising
causing a stent to move from a first position to a second position by a means including
operation of a computer such that the positioning of a dispenser, for application of a coating
substance, is maintained along a framework of the stent and when the stent is moved the
dispenser stays within a pathway of a pattern of the framework between the first position and
the second position; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 172~~, wherein the means additionally includes a stent driving component in
communication with the computer.

183. (currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising
causing a stent to move from a first position to a second position by a means including
operation of a computer such that the positioning of a dispenser, for application of a coating
substance, is maintained along a framework of the stent and when the stent is moved the
dispenser stays within a pathway of a pattern of the framework between the first position and
the second position; and

applying the coating substance to the frame structure of the stent, The method of
~~Claim 172~~, wherein the means additionally includes a feedback system in communication
with the computer.